

# Whitby 55+ Recreation Advisory Committee (2025)



## Meeting Minutes

Friday, January 10, 2025 – 9:00 a.m.

Location: Boardroom, 55+ Recreation Centre

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**Present:** Lise Watt, Joanne Smith, Mary Poirier, Jane Hilton, Lynda Kruitz, Lena Ebrekdjian, Sharon Bagatto, Carol James, Deborah Nanton, Erica Mittag, Roz Puddester, Kristina Von Eschscholtz

**Regrets:** Susan Lythgoe, Mayor Elizabeth Roy

- 1) Call to Order
- 2) Election of Chair and Vice-Chair (term: 1 year): Sharon nominated Lise for Chair which was seconded by Carol. Lise accepted the nomination. There were no other nominations, therefore Lise was acclaimed as Chair. Sharon nominated Joanne as Vice-Chair, which was seconded by Deborah. Joanne accepted the nomination. There were no other nominations, therefore Joanne was acclaimed as Vice-Chair.
- 3) Approval of Minutes from Previous Meeting: Lynda.
- 4) Approval of Agenda: Mary
- 5) Presentations/Delegations: None
- 6) General Business
  - a. **Supervisor's Report** (Supervisor)
    - i. Staffing update: Ashlyn Myers will be returning as the part-time Grant Outreach Coordinator later in January. The Committee thanks Victoria Duncan for her service in the role. The 55+ summer student position is currently posted. The student will be starting towards end of May.
    - ii. Seniors Community Grant Program – An application is being prepared to build on the success of the Women's Brain Health event. The goal is to increase mental wellness activities in conjunction with Ontario Shores, hoping to do four more workshops around life changes, loss and grief, caregiver support, self-care, community connections to people and resources. Workshops will be recorded for viewing at a later date. Ontario Shores to provide space and free parking, as well as program resources.
    - iii. Update on Murder Mystery (55+) and Spring Fling (BCCL). Murder Mystery will be held at 55+ due to parking and need for rehearsals. It will take place on Friday March 28 in the afternoon. Finger foods and beverages will be served. Volunteering to be actors are Sharon, Lise, Carol, Deborah and Lynda. Josh Wilson from 55+ staff may be recruited to play the male part. The audience will be capped at 40 persons for this new event. The Spring Fling in Brooklin will be a fashion show. Event date is Tuesday, April 1 in the evening. Model volunteers will be needed. Amanda is reaching out to local clothiers for show donations. The Committee would like Amanda to come to the next meeting to discuss ideas.

**b. Sub-Committee Reports (Members)**

**i. Program Committee:** (Kristina, Amanda, Lise, Joanne)

- 2024 Program Registration Numbers. A comparison of 2023 versus 2024 was reviewed. Total participants enrolled in programs for 2023 = 7,743 vs enrollment for 2024 = 9,294, an increase of 1,551 participants.
- Drop-In Programs. In 2023, there were 26 programs with 11,719 participants for a total revenue of \$27,492. In 2024, there were 31 programs with 13,002 participants for a total revenue of \$35,517. (Revenue numbers include Craft and Quilt sales revenue).
- Convenor recruitment: We are searching for Convenors for Shuffleboard and the Rise and Shine Walking Group.

**ii. Special Events Committee:** (Kristina, Jessica, Lise, Joanne, Mary, Sharon, Lena, Lynda, Susan)

Updates:

- Holiday Tea (Brooklin Community Centre and Library): It was a small group of 21 participants. It was cozy and fun. Jeanette V performed and people danced. It should be run again next year.

Discussion:

- Volunteer Appreciation Gala – Kristina: Takes place during Volunteer Appreciation Week on Thursday, May 1, from 6:30-8:30 pm at Heydenshore Pavillion. Out of possible theme suggestions, the group chose “Masquerade”. 150 persons will be invited. Tables of 8 will be set up. Consider delaying when food is available to encourage people to stay and enjoy the event. A new caterer is being considered: Angels. If finger foods only, then Farm Boy and Longo’s does good platters. Mocktails will be available. Further in-depth planning to be done.

Upcoming Events:

- Mayor’s Senior Volunteer Award - Nominations will be accepted between January 13 to March 7. The event will be promoted on social media.
- Line Dance Social – Friday, January 17 (6:00 p.m.) – This is a new event trial with a new instructor. Instructor has limited availability.
- Warm Your Body and Soul Yoga – Replaces the Bell Let’s Talk event, takes place on Tuesday, January 21 (2 sessions - 6:00 p.m. and 7:15 p.m.) at Brooklin Community Centre and Library.
- Unfolding the Foundations of Indigenous History and Traditions (All Ages) – Friday, January 24 (10:00 a.m.)
- Valentine’s Social – Friday, February 14 (2:00 p.m.) – will have a new DJ for this event, as our regular DJ is not available.
- St Patrick’s Day Social – Friday, March 14 (6:00 p.m.) – with our regular DJ.
- Extravaganza – June 20 – Quilt to be designed for raffle – Mary

to start the process with the Quilt Group.

iii. **New Members Committee** (Erica, Roz, Lise, Mary)

- Wednesday, January 29, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. with Mary and Deborah representing this Committee.

7) Other Business (Committee/Staff)

8) Council Update (Mayor Roy) The Mayor's office sent printed copies of Mayor Roy's monthly newsletter to go on display. They will be set out in Mingles and the Lounge.

9) Community Information Sharing (Members) - Community Items/Events of interest to share with group. Deborah told the group about Bereaved Families of Ontario, which offers free support, group sessions, for those who have lost loved ones. There's a local branch in Oshawa. This information will be shared in the e-blast. Lise spoke about Horizons of Hope, palliative care from Christian perspective.

10) Action Item Review/Next Meeting: Friday, February 14, 9:00am at the 55+ Recreation Centre. **Erica will see if the next meeting can be held in Brooklin so Amanda can present about the Spring Fling fashion show.** Carol to provide snack.

11) Adjournment at 10:29 am